The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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ANTI-UNIONISTS AGAIN CHANGE FRONT TO CONTROL LABOR

The anti-union employer has made another about-face.

As usual, this change is for public effect; it is not intended to interfere with his control of workers.

To-day the company "union" is popular among these employers. This "union" presents an interesting study in the shifting and tricky attitudes of those who would control labor while professing conversion to democracy in industry.

Up to approximately two decades ago this employer openly opposed his employes uniting.

Later he was forced to yield to organized labor's educational campaign, and then he championed the "open" shop.

This was a concession to the spirit of "a square deal," the vogue at that time.

It was popular then to affect an indifference whether workers belonged to a union or not.

These employers hired spies to discover trade unionists among their workers, but this made no difference to the 100 percenters of that time.

It was the claptrap and bombast that they applauded.

The "open" shop propaganda gradually lost its charm. The theory could not stand analysis.

To-day an employer would hardly dare indulge in one of the Parry-Post-Kirby eruptions on "independence" and "liberty."

In some sections the so-called "American" plan has replaced the "open" shop, but this second-hand attempt to commercialize patriotism only appeals to provincials and other low-grade intellects.

When his "open" shop propaganda no longer attracted, the anti-union employer was again forced to shift his position.

He is now seen in a new role. He no longer affects an indifference whether his employes are union or not.

Now he favors joint action by employes. He announces his conversion to unionism—but it must be the right kind.

To satisfy himself that his employes get the right kind of unionism, he organizes a company "union." He writes its constitution and by-laws, and in many cases deducts the dues of every employe who is compelled to join the new device.

A summary of this employer's changes in the last 20 years shows:

First, opposition to employes uniting; declaring for absolute individualism among these workers.

Second, a public indifference whether employes join union or not; secret discharge of unionists on word of spies.

Third, professing belief in "the right kind of unions"; forming company "union."

Thus it is seen within one-fifth of a century the anti-union employer has taken three positions. In the last position he maintains as complete control of his employes as in the first.

The company "union" will eventually collapse, as has other quack remedies.

The anti-union employer's psychologists and welfare workers can evolve no substitute for trade unionism.

Only control of their own lives will satisfy the workers. Some of them still hope for a shorter route to better conditions. Once again are they putting their trust in others, rather than in themselves.

In time these workers will be disillusioned. They will discover the company "union," as they have discovered other fakes that bear attractive labels.

Organized labor can hasten the day of discovery by agitation against this latest trick that continues the employers' control over workers.

Radical Proposals In Congress; Big Biz Makes Cautious Protest

Washington, April 12.—Farm legislation, now seriously discussed in congress, is along the same lines advocated by the Populists of 30 years ago, and which brought ridicule and scorn from the best minds of those days.

But farmers see no ridicule now. This is presidential year, and northwest states and those along the Mississippi river are fraught with revolt and threaten to leap over political boundaries.

Control of both branches of congress and the White House are at hand, and the situation calls for the most tactful handling to keep the farmer in line. This revolt has existed before, but never so extensive, and never were the people so distrustful of the old school politician.

Under the circumstances the older statesmen can not resort to old methods. They can not challenge the patriotism of these citizens, nor can they abuse them. Instead, they are giving serious consideration to some of the most revolutionary proposals ever presented to the senate.

The cry of "less government in business" has been forgotten, and even from the White House come recommendations that the government loan money to wheat growers that they may purchase live stock and other equipment for diversified farming. This is the plan that "Sockless Jerry" Simpson of Kansas advocated three decades ago.

Of more far-reaching effect, however, is the McNary-Haugen bill, which has been favorably reported by the senate committee on agriculture. This bill would take the exporting of wheat and other exportable commodities out of the hands of private interests and place them in charge of a government commission with large powers.

The bill is based on the fact that Liverpool prices of wheat, less the cost of delivery there, sets the price of wheat in America. The wheat production in this country averages 750,000,000 bushels annually. The domestic consumption totals 600,000,000 bushels, leaving a balance of 150,000,000 bushels that must be sold abroad.

The McNary-Haugen bill would create a commission, set aside $200,000,000 for its use, and empower it to take charge of this export surplus and sell it in such a way that strong competition would be lessened, and it would not be dumped on foreign markets so prices would be unreasonably affected. The commission will have the same power over other commodities that have a surplus.

The bill would embark the government on ventures undreamed of a few years ago. This is significant, but more significant is the gingerly manner in which it is opposed by those who hate it most heartedly. They see congress drifting from old moorings, but they are silent. They dare not increase the number of political bricks that are coming their way.

In the agricultural states even business interests favor the bill. They have forgotten their life-long plea of "private initiative" and "less government in business."

This conviction should serve as a lesson to trade unionists, who often overlook the fact that men who oppose them will change their viewpoints when confronted by strong organizations of labor.

ROADS MUST REPORT ON EXCESS EARNINGS

Washington, April 12.—The interstate commerce commission calls on all railroads to make reports on net earnings in excess of 6 per cent. Under the Cummins-Esch law the roads must turn over to the commission one-half of their profits in excess of 6 per cent for the benefit of weaker roads. The other one-half must be held by the railroad as a reserve fund.

Railroads oppose this section of the transportation act. They carried the case to the United States supreme court, which decided against them. The decision is a notice to railroads that their plea against what they term "government interference" is unavailing. In ruling that public utility profits can be limited, the court said:

"By investment in a business dedicated to the public service the owner must recognize that, as compared with investment in private business, he can not expect either higher or speculative dividends, but that his obligation limits him to only fair or reasonable profits."

The railroads claimed this section seized their property without due process of law. To this, the court replied:

"The statute declares the carrier to be only a trustee for the excess over a fair return received by it. Though in its possession, the excess never becomes its property, and it accepts custody of the product of all the rates with this understanding. It is clear, therefore, that the carrier never had such a title to the excess as to render the recapture of it by the government a taking without due process."

The effect of this decision is indicated by a recent review of the financial situation of the Pere Marquette railroad. It is shown that for the last 10 years, the earnings average 11.5 per cent, or a surplus of more than $40,000,000.

FAMILY ESTATE GROWS $100,000,000 A YEAR

Washington, April 12.—The estate of one family in this country is increasing at the rate of $100,000,000 a year, according to Congressman Green, chairman of the house ways and means committee. He did not say what estate he had in mind, but there is no doubt, others stated, that it was the manufacturer of a flivver auto.

Mr. Green's statement was in connection with Secretary of the Treasury Mellon's opposition to increased taxes on estates. The secretary fears it will "destroy initiative."

UNION AIDS HELPERS

St. Louis, Mo., April 12.—Marble and tile dealers failed in their effort to divide tile and marble helpers by raising wages for the former but not for the marble helpers. The offer was 8 cents an hour, but the tile helpers refused to accept it unless their fellow workers were included. The employers finally agreed.

MOTOR PROFITS JUMP

New York, April 12.—Last year's profits of the Durant motors company totaled $2,715,323, after taxes and other charges were met. This compares with net profits of $1,943,604 the previous year.

STEEL BARONS REFUTED; SHORTER WORK DAY WINS

New York, April 12.—Steel records continue to confound alleged wise men in this industry who prophesied disaster if the 11 and 12 hour day were abandoned.

The long workday was seared into the public conscience by the nation-wide steel strike. The agitation against the shorter workday continued after the strike. This caused Judge Gary to utter the profound statement that a reduction of hours would wreck the steel industry, "and we do not favor this," the judge hastily averred.

Iron Age, spokesman for the steel trust and leading opponent of the shorter workday, now states that official figures will probably show that the steel trust's March output equalled that of last year when the peak for 1923 was reached with an annual rate of 45,000,000 tons. Last year's record was made under the long workday, and now Iron Age acknowledges that this record has been duplicated under the shorter workday.

It is estimated that the trust's earnings for the first quarter of 1924 will exceed any since the first quarter of 1918 (war period). The later earnings were over $50,000,000.

FOOD COSTS ARE LOWER WHEN EGG PRICES DROP

Washington, April 12.—During the month of February the price of food in 51 cities dropped 0.6 percent, prices were lower, reports the bureau of labor statistics. New York and Rochester, with a 4 per cent decrease, report the greatest drop.

In the year period from March 15, 1923, to March 15, 1924, the 28 cities showed increases as follows: Columbus, Peoria and Springfield, Ill., 4 per cent; Cincinnati, Louisville and Norfolk, 3 per cent; Birmingham, Charleston, Memphis and St. Louis, 2 per cent; Atlanta, Baltimore, Detroit, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Mobile and New Haven, 1 per cent; St. Paul and Washington, D. C., less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

Nine cities decreased as follows: Fall River, Little Rock and Scranton, 2 per cent; Boston, Manchester, New York, Rochester and Portland, Me., 1 per cent; Richmond, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

CHEAP LIFE INSURANCE

Washington, April 12.—A local newspaper is offering $600 life insurance to subscribers at a cost of $3.60 per year.

When an anti-union employer presents a $500 insurance policy to his unorganized workers, they are expected to marvel at his generosity, and to work for $4 and $2 a day less than the union rate.

PAINTERS END STRIKE

Dayton, Ohio, April 12.—A two-year agreement has ended the strike of local painters. Wages will be raised 5 cents an hour the first year and an additional 7½ cents an hour the second year.

ORIENTALS MAN U. S. SHIPS; SHAM PATRIOTS HIDE FACT

Washington, April 12.—Few newspapers referred to a great "discovery" by the shipping board probers. The committee, according to a few lines in a local paper, brought out evidence that several ships in the board add to the Dollar steamship company have been orientalized.

The members of the committee were shocked, and one congressman said this would be "bad" in the event of a war with a far east country.

The "discovery" is old stuff to organized labor, which has repeatedly called attention to this employment of Japanese, Lascars, Chinese and Hindus.

Vessels owned by the United States government, and operated by private interests, also employ Orientals. In the current issue of Seamen's Journal, published in San Francisco, is a photo reproduction of a reception the Chinese crew of the steamship President Lincoln gave the retiring captain. The operators of this government-owned vessel permitted a huge banner to be hung along the side of the ship: "Chinese crew of the S. S. President Lincoln."

While the house committee has just discovered that Captain Dollar is employing Orientals, the Seamen's Journal says:

"There is no secret about Captain Dollar's employment of Chinese, but the daily press, with a few noted exceptions, has carefully censored the news relating to the shameful discrimination against American seamen.

"Even so reputable a publication as the Atlantic Monthly is used by propagandists to create the impression that American ships are manned by high-priced American crews, when, as a matter of fact, only the cheapest Orientals are employed."

The Seamen's Journal says that a conspiracy of silence fostered by American newspapers "has kept the American people in blissful ignorance of the fact that American ships in the foreign trade are already manned by Chinese, Filipinos and other cheap Asiatics."

The Dollar steamship company, which congressmen now whisper employs Orientals, is controlled by Captain Dollar. He is leader of the Pacific coast 100 per centers. He is so patriotic that he will only employ "free and independent labor." To be sure, these are not tainted with unionism, he selects Orientals.

When the world war started the captain's ships were flying the British flag. Stories of a German submarin on the west coast brought the British flag down, and this 100 per center hoisted the Stars and Stripes, which was neutral at that time.

Dollar has always employed Orientals, and the house committee's discovery only emphasizes the censorship over this fact and the hypocrisy of union-baiting ship owners who employ Orientals while pleading for an American merchant marine.

JOKER IN LABOR BILL AROUSES UNIONISTS

Albany, N. Y., April 12.—Organized labor and other advocates of compensation to injured workers have raised a storm of protest over a joker in an amendment to this act.

The amendment is favored by employers, who propose that compensation be paid workers who are victims of silicosis. This is a deadly lung disease, prevalent in the metal mining trades and often leading to tuberculosis. It is distinctly occupational in origin and compensation is now acquired in any occupation exposed to silicosis dust.

The employers' amendment would refer these cases to a board of physicians whose decision shall be final. To secure compensation the worker would have to be continuously employed for five years in an industry exposed to silicosis.

In arousing organized labor to the danger of this proposal, trade unionists declare that the new law's only provision "is obviously a joker intended to tie up the administration of the law."

As an alternative, labor suggests the state compensation commission appoint a referee who is a silicosis specialist to act on silicosis claims. This is the practice at present.

COX UPHOLDS LABOR LAW

Washington, April 12.—"The Ohio compensation law is a model instrument and the state fund is one of its best features."

This is the reply of James M. Cox, former governor of Ohio, to a query by Congressman Fitzgerald regarding the Ohio workmen's compensation law.

Mr. Fitzgerald has introduced a bill in congress that would provide for government monopoly of workmen's compensation in the District of Columbia. The proposal is contested by private liability companies, who fear the possibility of congress indorsing such a program. Mr. Cox was governor at the time the Ohio law was adopted, and it has been claimed in Washington that he opposed the law.

WHY LABOR IS OPPOSED

Pittsburgh, Pa., April 12.—The fact that organized labor is so strongly opposed is the basis for the statement that this is functioning in the interest of the workers, said President O'Connell of the A. F. of L. metal trades department in an address to the convention of the iron, steel and tin workers.

"If our movement was not accomplishing things for wage earners, it would not be noticed by the powers that would wreck it," said President O'Connell.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

New York, April 12.—A new wage agreement has been signed between employers and Typographical union ("Big Six") for a wage increase of $1 a week after January 1, 1925.

Dating back to the first of this year wages will be increased $3 a week. Next July, another dollar will be paid, and the first of the year the fifth dollar will be paid.

With the $3 increase, dating back to January 1, the new scale is: Day work, $58 a week; night work, $61; third shift, $64.

PROPERTY JUGGLED TO UPHOLD PRICES

Washington, April 12.—A senate committee's secret probe reveals that bankers and real estate men are wilfully holding property from the market and creating fictitious values to hold rents to a high level.

The probe shows that bankers refuse to handle first mortgages that do not expire in three years or less. The owner is compelled, with each renewal, to pay commissions, a bonus and other charges.

Union wage scales are used by investors as a basis of costs to get loans from banks. The union contractor is then discarded for a non-union contractor whose labor cost is lower.

The specifications of the building are changed and cheaper material is used.

The value of the ground is also increased and the ostensible cost of the building appears from 30 to 40 per cent more than actual cost. With these fictitious figures, the owner pleads that rents must be high "to secure a fair return on his investment." But if the property is sold the buyer must pay for the false value. He must also pay enormous commissions for a second trust, or mortgage.

Bankers and builders, it is stated, act jointly and building operations are conducted for speculative purposes, rather than to supply the legitimate housing demand.

"NEUTRAL" ARBITER SUPPORTS RAILROADS

Washington, April 12.—Ben W. Hooper, chairman of the railroad labor board, appeared before the senate interstate commerce committee in opposition to the Howell bill, which would replace the Esch-Cummins bill. Mr. Hooper is supposed to hold a neutral position, but once again he is found lined up with the railroads.

He said the bill would provide for arbitration and the non-partisan member would likely be without experience. Mr. Hooper did not explain how he, a lawyer, gained his experience—if any.

Representatives of the Union Pacific company "union" acknowledged that the railroad's representatives drew up their protest against the Howell bill, and that the railroad is paying their expenses.

The company "union" of the Pennsylvania railroad and other company "unions" was also dutifully lined up against the measure, and in support of the railroads.

R. R. BREAKS RECORD

New York, April 12.—Last year was the most prosperous in the history of the Erie railroad. Despite propaganda that the government is handicapping railroads by alleged high taxation, the net profits totaled $8,435,272. This is after taxes and other charges have been paid.

MINERS MAKE GAINS

Charleston, W. Va., April 12.—International and state representatives of the United Mine Workers have reached an agreement with northern West Virginia coal owners. For three years peace will reign in this section, as compared with anarchy that prevails in Logan county and other anti-union localities.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES

Memphis, Tenn., April 12.—A wage increase of 12½ cents an hour has been negotiated by the Electrical Workers' union. The new rate is $1 an hour.

JAP COLONIZING PLAN WILL FAIL IN AMERICA

Washington, April 12.—"Japan must give up the hope of colonizing her surplus population in the United States," said Congressman Johnson, chairman of the house committee on immigration, in reply to Japan's efforts to secure admission to this country for her immigrants.

Mr. Johnson said the pending immigration bill preserves all treaties with Japan, and that the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" with that country is not a treaty. He said a restrictive immigration act is as truly a conservation measure as any dealing with natural resources.

"Fully 80,000,000 citizens are with you to-day in the fight to restrict immigration," he continued. "They are the descendants of immigrants, every 20,000,000 of them. They want a bill which does not discriminate against them. They want an immigrant act written on the 100,000,000 people in the United States and not for any other soul on earth.

"They demand it for the welfare of their children, who, in 50 years, will bring our population to more than 200,000,000. They demand it in the hope that conditions in this country will not be like conditions in the countries from which their ancestors came. They know of the present struggle to get out of central, eastern and southeastern Europe."

Mr. Johnson stated that 600,000 persons in Russia have applied for passports to enter the United States, that 70,000 are assembled at Warsaw waiting for a chance to emigrate, and that 100,000 more are seeking admission to this country.

"It has become necessary that the United States cease to function as an asylum," he declared.

PRISON LABOR TRUST REACHES HIGH PROFITS

Des Moines, April 12.—With the aid of convict labor, aprons are manufactured in the penitentiary at a cost of 25 cents per dozen. The same labor system makes it possible for the Reliance furniture company to market automotive work shirts at a cost of 5 cents apiece. In both cases the costs include factory building, light and power.

These figures have been given wide circulation by organized labor in its fight against prison labor. The unionists show that there are 600 companies in this state that are manufacturing the same kind of work shirt, but that the average price is $15 per dozen, with additional costs for building, heat, light and power. The average cost for an apron similar to the convict brand is $2.23 per dozen.

The unionists point out that last year the Reliance company paid the state $45,984.98 on its contract at the rate of 35 cents per day. In the same period the state appropriated $155,182.08 for supporting that prison. The labor banks were organized three years ago, and since then the number has increased to 20, with total resources that are estimated at $50,000,000.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES

Charleston, W. Va., April 12.—Carpenters have secured a new wage agreement. Former rates of $1 an hour are increased to $1.12½ for the first year and $1.25 for the second year.

1,000,000 DRUG ADDICTS

Washington, April 15.—There are 1,000,000 drug addicts in the United Stattry, the house ways and means committee was told by representatives of the medical profession.

Dr. Charles W. Richardson of the American medical association expressed the opinion that the growing use of heroin "constitutes one of the most important moral questions before the nation." He said that most addicts are between the ages of 17 and 28.

Dr. Amos Squire, chief physician at Sing Sing penitentiary, testified that one out of every 11 convicts received in that institution is a heroin addict. He said the average cost of prisoner addicts

"Half the heroin users," he said, "come back to prison a second time."

Dr. Blue, former surgeon general of the United States public health service, said heroin is the most harmful of all habit-forming drugs and that its use has increased in recent years more especially among younger persons in large cities.

OPPOSE AIR MONOPOLY

Washington, April 12.—A bill designed to prevent monopoly of radio communication has been passed by the senate. It declares the air to be the inalienable possession of the people and prohibits licenses extending for more than two years.

METAL WORKERS GAIN

St. Louis, Mo., April 12.—Sheet metal workers have raised wages 12½ cents an hour, or $1.50 for foremen and $1.37½ for journeymen. The agreement is for one year.

WAGE WAR ON UNION WHILE GOUGING PUBLIC

Wheeling, W. Va., April 12.—With a long record of union-smashing, injunctions, gun men and thugs, the Wheeling steel corporation announces that last year's profits total $5,251,430.

This indicates what profits are possible in the steel industry were workers permitted to live their own lives.

This corporation has spent money without stint to defeat the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. It has maintained a corp of spies, a private army and other expensive battery of attorneys. Its strikebreaking has been given free rein and they are paid a higher wage than the unionists ask. The corporation has also used its funds for interest, for taxes, for depreciation and for the exhaustion of minerals. Despite these expenditures, the corporation's surplus, last year, is $5,251,430.

The plants of the corporation are the chief activity of Wheeling. For months it has attempted to operate on the anti-union plan and Wheeling has become a metropolis of fear because of the imported strikebreakers.

The Wheeling chamber of commerce stands behind the corporation. Last year business men have ignored the many robberies, assaults and hold-ups that have been the rule since the thugs were imported.

The steel workers present their wrongs indirectly through the wives and children of these unionists.

STATE DENIED RIGHT TO END GRADE PERILS

Washington, April 12.—States can not compel interstate railroads, the United States supreme court rules, to join in the construction of union stations or to abolish grade crossings. The California railroad commission attempted to end grade crossings in Los Angeles. The railroad carried cases of 29 states behind the California commission in asserting state jurisdiction, which is now denied.

The supreme court's decision is a gain for the theory of centralized government.

LABOR BANKS SUCCEED

New York, April 12.—The entry of labor into the banking field "is part of the normal development of workingmen," Isaac F. Brady, president of the Federation bank, in an address to bankers in this city. He said the first labor banks were organized three years ago, and since then the number has increased to 20, with total resources that are estimated at $50,000,000.

Faulty Engines Endanger Life; Roads Escape Effective Penalty

Washington, April 12.—In urging an additional appropriation for the locomotive inspection department of the interstate commerce commission, Congressman Lozier charged that roads with neglecting their power equipment and causing loss of life.

"It is time," said the congressman, "that the carriers have, in entirety too many instances, been guilty of negligence in failing to properly equip and repair their locomotives and in requiring engineers and firemen to operate locomotives not in reasonably safe condition. Until this practice is discontinued there will be an ever increasing number of casualties. The operation of defective locomotives is dangerous alike to the employes and to the traveling public."

Mr. Lozier said there has been a material increase in accidents resulting from defective locomotives. He said these accidents were not unavoidable, nor were they chargeable to the act of God or other which the railroads have no control.

"Nearly all of these accidents," he said, "could have been prevented by means well known to every qualified mechanical official and employe in charge of such inspections and repairs, and were due largely to the disregard for the requirements of law and well-established practices."

During the last fiscal year there were 1,632 deaths resulting from defective locomotives, but there were only 37 prosecutions filed against 31 railroads. In 10 cases, involving 78 counts, pleas of guilty were entered by the railroad managements and the maximum fine of $100 for each count was imposed.

"The imposition of these ridiculously insignificant penalties, in the aggregate amounting to only $7,800, did not restore to bereaved families their fathers, employes whose lives had been needlessly sacrificed when they were required to operate defective locomotives," said Congressman Lozier.

"In view of the startling increase of casualties, many of which were unmistakably caused by the gross negligence of carriers in operating locomotives which were admittedly defective and dangerous to operate, I ask why there has been no vigorous prosecution under the law to publicly violate this wise and humane law?"

The speaker gave a list of accidents on railroads that have ignored notices by inspectors. It was stated that in the summer of 1922 federal inspectors ordered out of service more than 7,000 locomotives. It is assumed that these were the more serious cases, and indicated the effect of the shop men's strike, which started at that time.

Postal Workers Need Higher Wage; Parcel Post Is Subsidy for Shippers

Washington, April 12.—In urging a wage increase for post office employes, Congressman Casey said that when congress approved the $1,400-$1,800 rates in 1920, it was in the belief that the high cost of living would recede.

"The supposition was not well founded; the cost of living has advanced," said Mr. Casey, who is the leading member of the house labor group. "While the cost of food and clothing has been reduced somewhat, and fluctuated considerably, the fixed and unescapable cost of the necessities of life, such as house rent, purchase and upkeep of property, taxes, transportation, fuel and light, has steadily increased, and in such proportion to postal employes' salary.

"About 70 per cent of the postal clerks are compelled to work at night because the large business firms and mail-order houses do not deposit their mail until after the close of the business day," said Congressman Casey. "For arduous duties these faithful employes get paid salaries ranging from $1,400 to $1,800 a year, with a reduction of $35 and $45 a year, respectively, for pensions. This leaves an average weekly salary of $26.25 to $33.75."

The speaker showed that postal service receipts increased 9.89 per cent last year over the previous year, while the clerical force was increased but 2.06 per cent. with no wage increase.

The labor congressman quoted figures by Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, who showed that large shippers and mail order houses are responsible for the increased post office business. The trade unionist declared that the parcel post is not bringing the city and country together.

"The government has gradually taken over practically all of the short-haul express business and most of the light-freight business through its parcel-post development during the past 10 years," said Secretary Flaherty. "It is the opinion of all familiar with the subject that this business, which now comprises 70 per cent of mail business, is carried at a great loss. The principal beneficiaries are the large shippers and mail-order concerns. Statistics show there are eight parcels mailed from the large cities for every one mailed to the cities from the country. Thus it is a myth to suppose that the government's parcel post is putting the city consumers in direct touch with the country producer.

"There is no justification for refusing postal employes adequate compensation and then virtually pay a subsidy to a few large shippers and mail order concerns. The general public gets no benefit from this policy of hauling express matter and freight at a loss. The volume of mail has increased 500 per cent since 1907, and 70 per cent of this great mass of mail matter is parcel post."